

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An oral composition providing surface conditioning effects on a subject's teeth and mucosal surfaces, said composition comprising a polymeric surface active agent which deposits on said oral surfaces a conditioning film providing (a) increased hydrophilic character as measured by a decrease in water contact angles or an increase in anionic surface charge and surface charge density and (b) decreased pellicle film thickness.
2. An oral composition according to Claim 1 which provides improved mouth feel aesthetics selected from smooth teeth, clean-feeling teeth, clean mouth feeling and longer lasting clean feeling.
3. An oral composition according to Claim 1, wherein said polymeric surface active agent is a polyelectrolyte selected from the group consisting of polyphosphonates; carboxy-substituted polymers; copolymers of phosphate- or phosphonate-containing monomers or polymers with ethylenically unsaturated monomers, amino acids, or with other polymers selected from proteins, polypeptides, polysaccharides, poly(acrylate), poly(acrylamide), poly(methacrylate), poly(ethacrylate), poly(hydroxyalkylmethacrylate), poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(maleic anhydride), poly(maleate) poly(amide), poly(ethylene amine), poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene glycol), poly(vinyl acetate) or poly(vinyl benzyl chloride); and mixtures thereof.
4. An oral composition according to Claim 3, wherein said polymeric surface active agent is a polyphosphonate or a diphosphonate/acrylic copolymer.
5. An oral composition according to Claim 1 further comprising an effective amount of a stannous ion source, wherein the staining potential of the stannous is reduced.
6. An oral composition according to Claim 5 comprising from about 3,000 ppm to about 15,000 ppm stannous ions in the total composition.
7. A method of providing surface conditioning effects to a subject's teeth and mucosal surfaces comprising administering to the subject an oral composition

comprising a polymeric surface active agent which deposits on said oral surfaces a conditioning film providing (a) increased hydrophilic character as measured by a decrease in water contact angles or an increase in anionic surface charge and surface charge density and (b) decreased pellicle film thickness.

8. A method of preventing and controlling tartar and tooth staining in a subject comprising administering to said subject an oral composition according to Claim 1.
9. A method of preventing and controlling tartar and tooth staining in a subject comprising administering to said subject an oral composition according to Claim 5.